



AMONG FRIENDS

Friends of the Sacramento Public Library

Winter 2021

As this issue of the Among Friends newsletter goes to press, in-person meetings and special events at the Libraries are still uncertain. Check the Friends website (saclibfriends.org) and the Sacramento Public Library website (saclibrary.org) to get the latest up-to-date information.

Tuesday, November 9 – 7 pm

Friends of Sacramento Public Library Board meets via zoom

Tuesday, November 30 – all day

GIVING TUESDAY

Friends will participate on behalf of the Young Readers Fund

Thursday, December 9 – 3 pm

Sacramento Public Library Authority meets via zoom

Zoom link and agenda will be available at: saclibrary.org/About/Authority-Board/Board-Meetings

Tuesday, January 11 – 7 pm

Friends of Sacramento Public Library Board meets via zoom

Thursday, January 27 – 3 pm

Sacramento Public Library Authority meets via zoom

Zoom link and agenda will be available at: saclibrary.org/About/Authority-Board/Board-Meetings

Sunday, February 6 – 1 pm

ANNUAL MEETING, ELECTION OF BOARD AND OFFICERS via zoom

All Friends Meeting via zoom immediately following



#GIVINGTUESDAY

Tuesday, November 30th

A Message from the Library Director

By Rivkah Sass



As I write this for the Friends newsletter, I am just a couple of months away from leaving my job as Library Director of Sacramento Public Library, a position I've been privileged to hold for the past 12 years. It's been a wild and wonderful ride and I'll have stories to tell for the rest of my life.

If you have read even one of my articles for the Friends newsletter, you will know that I cherish the relationship the Library and the Friends have built and you understand that we share the same values and goals – to enhance library services in all 28 of our libraries; to help

us prepare young children to start school passionate about reading and learning; and to collaborate on programs and initiatives that enhance the vitality of our community. Just as I have grown and learned in my job as Library Director, the Friends have grown and evolved into an organization ready for any challenge. It's been a wonderful process.

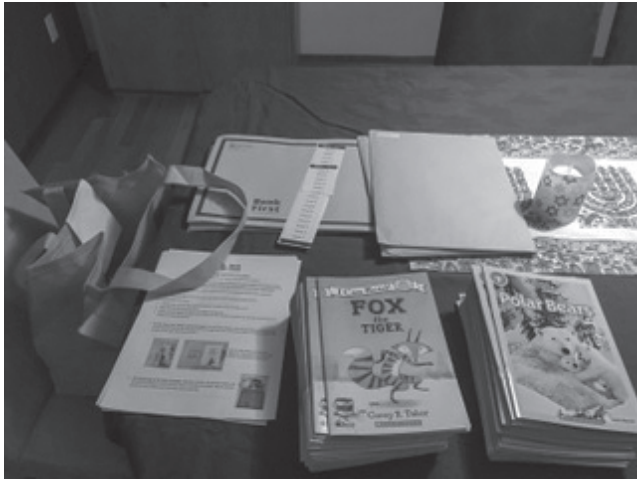
I want to thank the many leaders of the Friends of the Sacramento Public Library I have had the pleasure of working with over the past 12 years. We developed a shared vision for library support, did the work and made it official. The Friends are the Library's official fundraising partner. And what a great job they are doing.

I leave Sacramento Public Library with the belief that I have done my best. I know my work was never perfect and many things are unfinished; my to do list has grown rather than been completed but major goals have been accomplished and there is enough to keep our new library director busy for years to come. We have wonderful staff, our budget is stable, we focus our programs and collections on what the community needs and wants, we are committed to reducing barriers to access and I believe the Library is ready for whatever challenges come our way. I look forward to having many adventures, working with the Friends and enjoying all the wonderful things Sacramento Public Library and our beautiful community have to offer!

**THANK YOU RIVKAH AND
WONDERFUL SPL STAFF!**

- The Friends

The number one purpose of the Friends of the Sacramento Public Library, as stated in our Articles of Incorporation, is to create public support for expanding the goals and objectives of the Sacramento Public Library and its Branch Libraries, and to advocate for them to the extent permitted by law.



Volunteers assembled and stuffed more than 13,000 classroom packets like this one in the 2020/21 school year.

Book First – Year 6

By Vicki Rondeau

Book First welcomes Year 6! We are excited to roll it out and get books into the hands of our first graders. Here's what is planned so far: Book First Team meetings began in September with the decision to replicate Year 5 due to the ongoing pandemic. Christie Hamm, Manager of Youth and Literacy Services and Meghan Casey, K-12 Specialist, will be leading the Sacramento Public Library team and the Friends team will be myself along with Katherine McMillan.

The books have been ordered and will arrive soon. All the remaining books from Year 4 and 5 were inventoried and added to Year 6 for distribution. Book First will serve an additional eight schools this year, for a total of 180 schools and an estimated 14,000 first grade students receiving Book First books.

Because of the generous support for this program last May on the Big Day of Giving we will have enough money to fund these books for all the students. If you missed that opportunity in May, there is still time to donate to this program on the Friends of the Library website. Donations are already coming in for Year 7.

Volunteers will again be needed this year to assemble book packets, either at home or in-person work parties at the Central Galleria. Safety details were still being worked out at the time of this writing, but it was hoped that these in-person work parties will happen in November. Like last year students will receive two books, one fiction and one non-fiction along with an activity sheet and a letter to parents about this program and the public library. Friends volunteers are invited to take part in virtual classroom visits with our stellar Youth Services Librarians. Ask us about training!

Watch your email inbox for invitations to participate from Sign Up Genius. We urge you to get involved with Book First and be part of welcoming our young readers into the world of reading and public libraries. We guarantee you will have fun while boosting early childhood literacy in your community!



Book Den Report

By Pam Whiteley

We know by looking at the calendar that the holidays are upon us. Keep the Book Den in mind when you're shopping. What's a better gift on a cold winter day than a book to curl up with or a puzzle to go with that hot apple cider. A gift that keeps on giving would be a membership in the Friends. As a member, you can shop all year long and get the 20% discount (40% discount for patrons). If that special someone is also a teacher, they would get an additional 10% discount to make it 30%!

Good news folks, the Book Den is officially open. We are still doing things by baby steps to see how it goes. Our official hours are 9-1pm on Wednesdays, Fridays, and non-warehouse sale Saturdays. You can shop the store and the warehouse with no appointment. Warehouse sales will continue by appointment only twice a month.

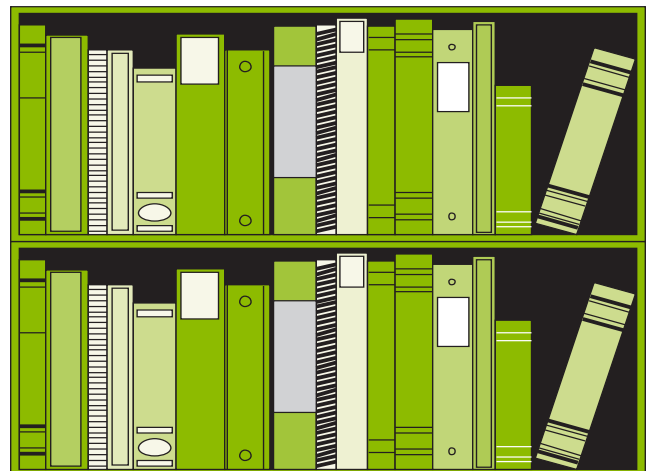
In November, we will re-institute the monthly Members only Friday night sale. These will be the Friday before the first warehouse sale of the month. The first two will be November 5th and December 3rd from 5pm to 8pm. More dates will be posted on our website. If you're not yet a member, you can join at the door.

Our September bag sales were a huge success for us and for our customers. We will look at Spring for another round. Thanks to all the volunteers who worked that day and those who tried to keep the shelves full in between sales. And a big thanks to our wonderful customers.

Donations are continuing to pour in. I know it's confusing about the days for donations so I'll try to explain. We take donations on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9am to noon. The exceptions are the Wednesday before a warehouse sale and the day of the sale. It's not unusual to get several donations of 20-30 boxes each in one day, and they fill the aisles. If this happens on the Wednesday before a sale the volunteers can't get all those boxes and bags emptied out in time for shoppers. The best idea is to check our website, call (916-731-8493) or email (macsa46@gmail.com) to check on donation days.

Some customers have been confused because they Google our store or find us on another website and the hours are not correct. These sites don't update regularly and they're hard to change. If you need info, please go to our official website: <https://saclibfriends.org/>

Happy holidays from all of us at the Book Den.



Message from the President

by Karen Wilson

How many times have we heard this year, “When will things get back to normal?” Many Friends can't wait to get back into our libraries and resume the book sales that have funded many library programs and improvements, from play mats to books and computers. The answer from the Library has been a prudent one: when we can be sure that staff and visitors will be safe from the pandemic virus, and we don't know when that will be. In the meantime, Friends are doing what we can with limited access to the library spaces we love. Are there other ways to support our libraries? Yes, and Friends at branches are working on that, with offsite book sales and tables at community events.

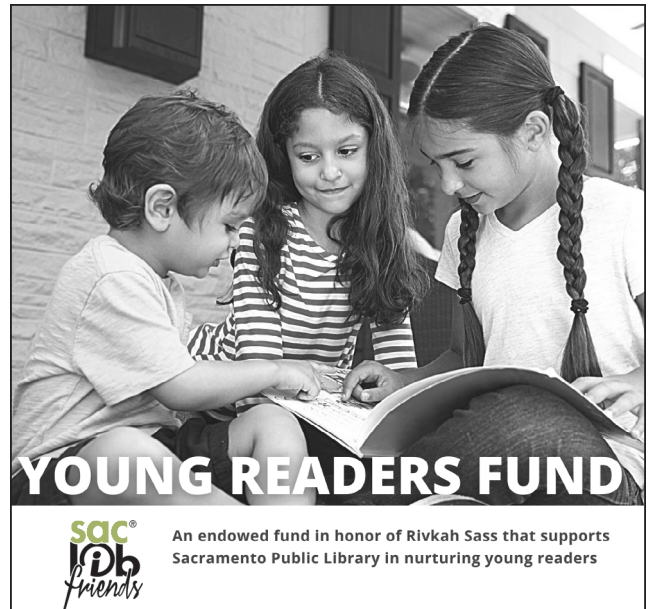
The Friends, and our legacy giving arm, Friends Investing in Sacramento Public Library, are raising public awareness of the Library as a vital community asset with the Young Readers Fund, honoring retiring Library Director Rivkah Sass, providing funds into the future to nurture young readers. We will be taking part in Giving Tuesday on November 30 on behalf of the Young Readers Fund. These are new initiatives for the Friends, and they build on the success the Friends and the Library have had with the much-loved Book First program. Just as the Library has adapted by increasing online access, with more than 2.5 million Overdrive/Libby checkouts this year, the Friends will adapt to support our libraries. 2022 will be an exciting time.

In the spirit of gratitude, I'd like to recognize the Friends Board, and our tireless Membership Coordinator, Denise Watts, who does more than any job description could convey. Thank you: Fred Dobb, VP, Anita Scuri, Secretary, Kate Ross and Sue Powell, Co-Treasurers, and Margaret Clauson, Devon Graves, Doreatha Johnson, Karen Lindh, Ellen McCaslin, Vicki Rondeau, Chris Wagner and Pam Whiteley.

Young Readers Fund Honorary Committee

These dignitaries are supporting the Young Readers Fund by lending their names, opening doors for the Library in the community, contributing to the Fund, and celebrating its success with the Friends. Thank you!

Judith Anshin (Former President of the Friends of Belle Cooledge Library)
Donna Apidone (Host, Capital Public Radio)
Angelique Ashby (Sacramento City Council, District 1)
Charles Else (Principal, Osborne Partners Capital Management)
Heather Fargo (Former Mayor, Sacramento)
Gloriette C. Fong (Friends Supporter, Arden-Dimick Library Volunteer)
Rob Fong (Former Member, Sacramento City Council)
Sue Frost (Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, District 4)
David Gordon (Superintendent, Sacramento County Office of Education)
Matthew Gowan (Sr. Vice President, Alliant Insurance Services, Inc.)
Eric Guerra (Sacramento City Council, District 6)
Amy Kautzman (Director, University Library, California State University, Sacramento)
Patrick Kennedy (Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, District 2)
Barbara Monroe (Philanthropist)
Don Nottoli (Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, District 5)
Gina O'Neal (Air Quality Analyst, Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District)
Steve Potash (President and CEO, Overdrive, Inc.)
Anne Rosenthal (Managing Shareholder, Drobny Law Offices)
Jeff Rubin (Former President, Friends of the Sacramento Public Library)
Anita Scuri (Former President, Friends of the Sacramento Public Library)
Chuck Shulock (Former System Friends Board Member, Active in Library Bond Measure Campaign)
Bobbie Singh-Allen (Mayor, Elk Grove)



Acting On Our Feelings of Gratitude: The Young Readers Fund

At this time of year, we give thanks for people and places that fulfill our lives. For many of us, one of those places is the Sacramento Public Library and one of the people is Rivkah Sass, its leader for the past twelve years. With Rivkah's retirement approaching at the end of December, the Friends have created the Young Readers Fund to show our gratitude.

The Young Readers Fund honors Rivkah and will extend her legacy at the Library. As an endowed fund, it will fuel new initiatives to enhance children's reading abilities, as well as supporting current materials and projects for children. We are approaching 70% completion of the \$100,000 goal and are announcing a new \$5,000 challenge grant from Alan and Helen Yee and the Herbert and Inez Yee Foundation to be matched by other community members as Rivkah's retirement date ticks closer.

We are grateful to those who have already supported the Fund and offer an invitation to join the ranks if you have not yet had the opportunity. You can contribute directly in several ways, the easiest being via the Friends website: www.saclibfriends.org and pressing the Young Readers Fund button. Checks can be made out to Friends Investing in Sacramento Public Library (FISPL) and sent to P.O. Box 60402, Sacramento, CA 95860. Or, if you would like to donate a gift of stock or through a required minimum distribution from your IRA, please contact us at friendsinvestinginsaclib@gmail.com before initiating the transfer.

Then, celebrate with us in January as we share the success of the fund with Rivkah and, possibly, a surprise guest. The Library is a vital component in our lives for which we are grateful. As writer William Arthur Ward once said, “Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.” Let's give this present to the young readers of Sacramento County, present and future, in Rivkah's honor.

Michael Stevenson (Producing Artistic Director, Capital Stage)
Karina Talamantes (President, Sacramento County Board of Education)
Karen Thomas (Former System Friends Board Member, Active in Library Bond Measure Campaign)
Sharon Usher (Townsend Raimundo Besler and Usher)
Katie Valenzuela (Sacramento City Council, District 4)
Mai Vang (Sacramento City Council, District 8)
David Wagner (President, Friends Investing in Sacramento Public Library)
Karen Wilson (President, Friends of the Sacramento Public Library)
Kerry Wood (Leadership Team Member, Sacramento Region Community Foundation)

Get the latest information on Book Den sale and donation days and warehouse sale days, Friends events and news at:

www.saclibfriends.org and on social media.   

Gift certificates are available at the Book Den. Use them at both the Book Den and our Warehouse. The Book Den and the Friends Warehouse are located at 8250 Belvedere, Suite E, Sacramento. For more information or to find out about Book Den/Warehouse volunteer openings, please contact: BookDen@SacLibFriends.org or call (916) 731-8493.

Among Friends is published six times a year by the Friends of the Sacramento Public Library.

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Contributors:

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